

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending.

The Office required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and considered the present application to contain separate and distinct species, directed to three groups designated Groups I-III, and one species from Species A1-A2, B1-B2, C1-C2, D1-D2, and E1-E2.

In response, Applicants hereby provisionally elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-23. Applicants elect species A1, B1, C1, D1, and E1 with traverse. The traverse is on the ground that these species correspond to dependent claims which depend from claim 1. These species are thus linked by the general inventive concept recited in independent claim 1 from which these dependent claims depend.

Applicants submit that claim 5 corresponds to elected species A1, claim 7 corresponds to elected species B1, claims 11-12 correspond to elected species C1, and claims 14-15 correspond to elected species D1. No claims from Group I correspond to species E1 (only non-elected method claims 26-28 of Group II correspond to species E1).

The following claims correspond to non-elected species: 6 (which corresponds to non-elected species A2), 8 (which corresponds to non-elected species B2) and 13 (which corresponds to non-elected species C2-C8). No claims correspond to non-elected species D2 and E2.

Thus, claims 5, 7, 11-12 and 14-15 correspond to elected species and claims 1-4, 9, 10 and 16-23 are generic. Applicants request that claims 1-5, 7, 9-12 and 14-23 be examined on the merits.

Non-elected claims 6, 8 and 13 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants request that these claims be rejoined with claim 1 upon allowance of claim 1.

Applicants respectfully await the first Office Action on the merits.

The Office is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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